

What is claimed is:

1. A data distribution system comprising:

a reproducing apparatus for reproducing content data to be distributed from a mounted recording medium;

5 a recording apparatus for recording said reproduced content data on a mounted recording medium;

an examining means for examining the type of the content data recorded on the recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus, the recording medium
10 mounted in said reproducing apparatus, said reproducing apparatus, the recording medium mounted in said recording apparatus, and said recording apparatus; and

a controlling means for controlling transfer of said content data from said recording medium mounted in
15 said reproducing apparatus to said recording medium mounted in said recording apparatus based on results of said examination.

2. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said examining means;

20 examines whether said content data to be distributed is content data of a first type which is distributed in an encrypted state or content data of a second type which is distributed in an unencrypted state,

examines whether said recording medium is a
25 recording medium of a first type having a configuration

enabling recorded data to be effectively read out by performing authentication processing or a recording medium of a second type having no such configuration and enabling the recorded data to be read out freely,

5 examines whether said reproducing apparatus is a reproducing apparatus of a first type for reproducing after the authentication processing or a reproducing apparatus of a second type for reproducing without that processing, and

10 examines whether said recording apparatus is a recording apparatus of a first type for recording after the authentication processing or a recording apparatus of a second type for recording without that processing.

3. A data distribution system as set forth in
15 claim 2, wherein said controlling means disables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said second recording medium, and said reproducing
20 apparatus is said second reproducing apparatus.

4. A data distribution system as set forth in
claim 2, wherein said controlling means disables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the
25 recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is

said second recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said first reproducing apparatus.

5. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said second type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said second recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said second reproducing apparatus.

10 6. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said second type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is
15 said second recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said first reproducing apparatus.

7. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means disables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that
20 the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said first recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said second reproducing apparatus.

8. A data distribution system as set forth in
25 claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the

reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said first recording medium, and said reproducing
5 apparatus is said first reproducing apparatus.

9. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said second type, the
10 recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said first recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said second reproducing apparatus.

10. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the
15 reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said second type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said first recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said first reproducing apparatus.

20 11. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means disables the recording when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is
25 said second recording medium, and said recording

apparatus is said second recording apparatus.

12. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means disables the recording when the result of the examination is that the
5 content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said second recording medium, and said recording apparatus is said first recording apparatus.

13. A data distribution system as set forth in
10 claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the recording when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said second type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said second recording medium, and said recording
15 apparatus is said second recording apparatus.

14. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the recording when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said second type, the
20 recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said second recording medium, and said recording apparatus is said first recording apparatus.

15. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means disables the
25 recording when the result of the examination is that the

content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said first recording medium, and said recording apparatus is said second recording apparatus.

5 16. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the recording when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is
10 said first recording medium, and said recording apparatus is said first recording apparatus.

 17. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the recording when the result of the examination is that the
15 content data is content data of said second type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said first recording medium, and said recording apparatus is said second recording apparatus.

 18. A data distribution system as set forth in
20 claim 2, wherein said controlling means enables the recording when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said second type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said first recording medium, and said recording apparatus
25 is said first recording apparatus.

19. A data distribution system comprising:

a reproducing apparatus for reproducing content data to be distributed from a mounted recording medium;

a recording apparatus for recording said
5 reproduced content data on a mounted recording medium;

an examining means for examining an owner of the recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus, said reproducing apparatus, a recording medium mounted in said recording apparatus, and said recording
10 apparatus; and

a controlling means for controlling a transfer of said content data from said recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus to said recording medium mounted in said recording apparatus based on results of
15 said examination.

20. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 19, wherein said controlling means disables the transfer when the result of the examination is that the transfer would result in the content data becoming the
20 property of a different owner.

21. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 19, wherein said controlling means performs predetermined charging and enables the transfer when the result of the examination is that the transfer would
25 result in the content data becoming the property of a

different owner.

22. A data distribution system comprising:

a reproducing apparatus for reproducing content data to be distributed from a mounted recording medium;

5 a recording apparatus for recording said reproduced content data on a mounted recording medium;

an examining means for examining elements for which some sort of profits should be distributed relating to the processing of the transfer of said content data from said recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus to said recording medium mounted in said recording apparatus; and

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a processing means for performing predetermined processing so that said profit is distributed to said elements based on results of said examination.

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23. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 22, wherein said processing means transmits a list of elements for which profit should be distributed to an organization managing profits relating to distribution of said content data.

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24. A data communication system comprising:

a reproducing apparatus for reproducing content data to be distributed from a mounted recording medium;

a recording apparatus for recording said reproduced content data on a mounted recording medium;

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an examining means for examining specifications of a signal of the content data recorded on the recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus; specifications of a signal of reproduction processing in
5 said reproducing apparatus, and specifications of a signal of recording processing by said recording apparatus; and

a signal converting means for converting a signal of said content data so that the transfer of said
10 content data from said recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus to said recording medium mounted in said recording apparatus can be suitably carried out based on results of said examination.

25. A data communication system as set forth in
15 claim 24, further comprising a transmitting means for transmitting information relating to conversion of the signal to an organization managing profit relating to distribution of said content data.

26. A data distribution method comprising the steps
20 of:

examining types of content data to be distributed recorded on a recording medium mounted in a reproducing apparatus, a recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus, said reproducing apparatus, a
25 recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus, and

said recording apparatus; and

controlling the transfer of said content data
from said recording medium mounted in said reproducing
apparatus to said recording medium mounted in said

5 recording apparatus based on results of said examination.

27. A data distribution method as set forth in
claim 26, wherein said examination

examines whether said content data to be
distributed is content data of a first type which is
10 distributed in an encrypted state or content data of a
second type which is distributed in an unencrypted state,

examines whether said recording medium is a
recording medium of a first type having a configuration
enabling recorded data to be effectively read out by
15 performing authentication processing or a recording
medium of a second type having no such configuration and
enabling the recorded data to be read out freely,

examines whether said reproducing apparatus is
a reproducing apparatus of a first type for reproducing
20 after the authentication processing or a reproducing
apparatus of a second type for reproducing without that
processing, and

examines whether said recording apparatus is a
recording apparatus of a first type for recording after
25 the authentication processing or a recording apparatus of

a second type for recording without that processing.

28. A data distribution method comprising the steps of:

examining owners of a recording medium mounted
5 in a reproducing apparatus and with content data to be
distributed recorded thereon, said reproducing apparatus,
a recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus,
and said recording apparatus; and

controlling the transfer of said content data
10 from said recording medium mounted in said reproducing
apparatus to said recording medium mounted in said
recording apparatus based on results of said examination.

29. A data distribution method comprising the steps of:

15 examining elements for which some sort of
profit should be distributed relating to processing for
transfer of said content data from a recording medium
mounted in a reproducing apparatus to a recording medium
mounted in a recording apparatus; and

20 transmitting a list of elements for which said
profit should be distributed based on the results of said
examination to an organization for managing the profit
relating to the distribution of the related content data.

30. A data distribution method comprising the steps
25 of:

examining specifications of a signal of content data recorded on a recording medium mounted in a reproducing apparatus, specifications of a signal of reproduction processing in said reproducing apparatus, and specifications of a signals of recording processing of a recording apparatus;

converting the signal of said content data so that the transfer of said content data from said recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus to said recording medium mounted in said recording apparatus can be suitably carried out based on results of said examination; and

recording said converted signal on said recording medium mounted in said recording apparatus.

31. A data processing apparatus comprising:

a reproducing apparatus for reproducing content data to be distributed from a mounted recording medium;

an examining means for examining types of the content data recorded on a recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus, a recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus, and said reproducing apparatus; and

a controlling means for controlling the reproduction of the content data from said recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus based on

results of said examination.

32. A data processing apparatus as set forth in claim 31, wherein said examining means;

examines whether said content data to be
5 distributed is content data of a first type which is distributed in an encrypted state or content data of a second type which is distributed in an unencrypted state,

examines whether said recording medium is a recording medium of a first type having a configuration
10 enabling recorded data to be effectively read out by performing authentication processing or a recording medium of a second type having no such configuration and enabling the recorded data to be read out freely, and

examines whether said reproducing apparatus is
15 a reproducing apparatus of a first type for reproducing after the authentication processing or a reproducing apparatus of a second type for reproducing without that processing.

33. A data processing apparatus as set forth in
20 claim 32, wherein said controlling means disables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said second recording medium, and said reproducing
25 apparatus is said second reproducing apparatus.

34. A data processing apparatus as set forth in claim 32, wherein said controlling means disables the reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the
5 recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said second recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said first reproducing apparatus.

35. A data processing apparatus as set forth in claim 32, wherein said controlling means disables the
10 reproduction when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the reproducing apparatus is said first recording medium, and said reproducing apparatus is said second reproducing apparatus.

15 36. A data processing apparatus comprising:
an examining means for examining elements for which some sort of profit should be distributed relating to reproduction of content data to be distributed from a recording medium mounted in a reproducing apparatus; and
20 a transmitting means for transmitting a list of elements for which said profit should be distributed as a result of said examination to an organization managing the profit relating to the distribution of the related content data.

25 37. A data processing method comprising the steps

of:

examining the types of content data to be distributed recorded on a recording medium mounted in a reproducing apparatus, a recording medium mounted in said
5 reproducing apparatus, and said reproducing apparatus;
and

controlling the reproduction of content data from said recording medium mounted in said reproducing apparatus based on results of said examination.

10 38. A data processing method as set forth in claim 37, wherein said examination;

examines whether said content data to be distributed is content data of a first type which is distributed in an encrypted state or content data of a
15 second type which is distributed in an unencrypted state,

examines whether said recording medium is a recording medium of a first type having a configuration enabling recorded data to be effectively read out by performing authentication processing or a recording
20 medium of a second type having no such configuration and enabling the recorded data to be read out freely, and

examines whether said reproducing apparatus is a reproducing apparatus of a first type for reproducing after the authentication processing or a reproducing
25 apparatus of a second type for reproducing without that

processing.

39. A data processing method comprising the steps of:

examining elements for which some sort of
5 profit should be distributed relating to reproduction of
content data to be distributed from a recording medium
mounted in a reproducing apparatus; and

transmitting a list of the elements for which
said profit should be distributed as the result of said
10 examination to an organization for managing profit
related to the distribution of the related content data.

40. A data processing apparatus comprising:

a recording apparatus for recording content
data to be distributed on a mounted recording medium;
15 an examining means for examining types of said
content data, said recording medium, and said recording
apparatus; and

a controlling means for controlling the
recording of said content data onto said recording medium
20 based on results of said examination.

41. A data processing apparatus as set forth in
claim 40, wherein said examining means;

examines whether said content data to be
distributed is content data of a first type which is
25 distributed in an encrypted state or content data of a

second type which is distributed in an unencrypted state,

examines whether said recording medium is a recording medium of a first type having a configuration enabling recorded data to be effectively read out by

5 performing authentication processing or a recording medium of a second type having no such configuration and enabling the recorded data to be read out freely, and

examines whether said recording apparatus is a recording apparatus of a first type for recording after
10 the authentication processing or a recording apparatus of a second type for recording without that processing.

42. A data processing apparatus as set forth in claim 41, wherein said controlling means disables the recording when the result of the examination is that the
15 content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said second recording medium, and said recording apparatus is said second recording apparatus.

43. A data processing apparatus as set forth in
20 claim 41, wherein said controlling means disables the recording when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said second recording medium, and said recording
25 apparatus is said first recording apparatus.

44. A data processing apparatus as set forth in claim 41, wherein said controlling means disables the recording when the result of the examination is that the content data is content data of said first type, the
5 recording medium mounted in the recording apparatus is said first recording medium, and said recording apparatus is said second recording apparatus.

45. A data processing apparatus comprising:
an examining means for examining elements for
10 which some sort of profit should be distributed relating to processing for recording content data to be distributed on a recording medium mounted in a recording apparatus; and
a transmitting means for transmitting a list of
15 elements for which said profit should be distributed as a result of said examination to an organization for managing the profit relating to the distribution of the related content data.

46. A data processing method comprising the steps
20 of:
examining types of content data to be distributed, a recording medium, and a recording apparatus; and
controlling the recording of said content data
25 onto said recording medium in said recording apparatus

based on results of said examination.

47. A data processing method as set forth in claim 46, wherein said examination;

examines whether said content data to be
5 distributed is content data of a first type which is distributed in an encrypted state or content data of a second type which is distributed in an unencrypted state,

examines whether said recording medium is a recording medium of a first type having a configuration
10 enabling recorded data to be effectively read out by performing authentication processing or a recording medium of a second type having no such configuration and enabling the recorded data to be read out freely, and

examines whether said recording apparatus is a
15 recording apparatus of a first type for recording after the authentication processing or a recording apparatus of a second type for recording without that processing.

48. A data processing method comprising the steps of:

20 examining elements for which some sort of profit should be distributed relating to processing of recording content data to be distributed on a recording medium mounted in a recording apparatus; and

transmitting a list of elements for which said
25 profit should be distributed as a result of said

examination to an organization for managing the profit relating to the distribution of the related content data.

49. A data recording medium having a configuration enabling effective read out of recorded data by
- 5 authentication processing, comprising a switch for selecting whether the related recording medium is to be used as a recording medium having a configuration enabling effective read out of recorded data by authentication processing or used as a recording medium
- 10 not having such a configuration and enabling free read out of the recorded data.